

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

Hackney thousands march in mass protest

NO SAY: SAY NO!

Balloons, bands and theatre groups joined the tens of thousands of marchers in London on Thursday 29 March, protesting against the government's plans to streamline local government. "Democracy Day" was organised by the TUC and the Local Government Campaign Unit, and marked the climax of a week of events mounted by local authorities to display opposition to the proposed attacks on local democracy.

In Hackney, council services were all but shut down as NUPE and NALGO members came out to support the one-day strike. After a rally at the Town Hall organised by the Joint Shop Stewards Committee, half a dozen coaches left Mare Street for Central London, carrying strikers to the march to County Hall, followed by a rally at the Central Hall, Westminster to hear speeches by trade unionists and politicians, including Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington Council,

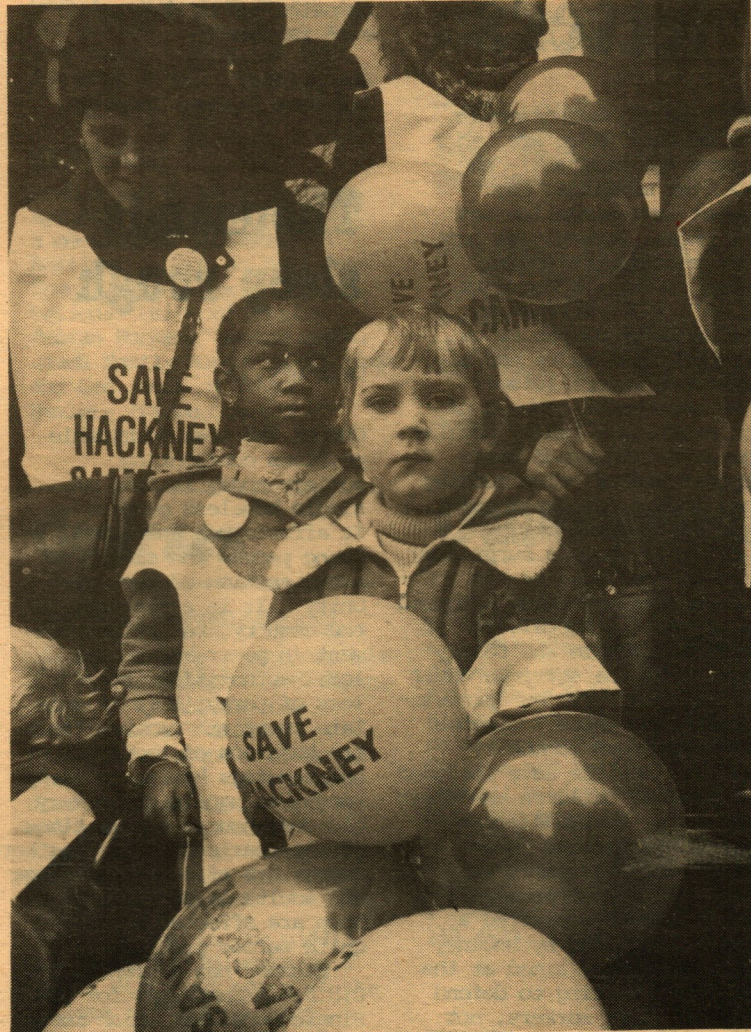
Len Murray, Rodney Bickerstaffe and Labour leader Neil Kinnock.

NUPE's General Secretary Rodney Bickerstaffe said that the Tories should choke on words like democracy and freedom. "They are our words and concepts," he said. "It is we who keep them alive today and who will keep them alive in the future, NOT Thatcher and the Tory government."

Maggie Foy, of the Trade Union Support Unit, described March 29th as "a very well attended and successful day."

The previous day, Town Hall staff spent their lunchtime attending a rally outside the Town Hall in Mare Street, where there were stalls set up, with bands playing and refreshments provided.

Democracy week had begun on Saturday 24 March when the Save Hackney campaign set up stalls at markets



in Ridley Road, Chatsworth Road and Kingsland Waste, to collect signatures for petitions against the proposed government legislation and to publicise the week's events.

During the week, open days were held at local schools, fire stations and local workshops. Britannia Leisure Centre was thrown open to visitors, and local bus routes were leafletted with

details of government plans to take over LT. On Wednesday 28 March buses and tubes came to a standstill as LT workers walked out in protest.

Although Hackney Council was unsuccessful in its court case against Patrick Jenkin, the Save Hackney campaign is planning a "people's court" where groups and individuals can give evidence against the government.

Save LT strike against plan

Hackney London Transport workers were 100% behind the one-day strike against plans to abolish the GLC.

Fifty-seven thousand transport workers took action on Wednesday 28 March in response to proposals to withdraw democratic control of LT. London's transport workers were clearly demonstrating that they saw abolition of the GLC and the setting up of an unelected London Regional Transport board as a threat to their jobs and the standards of public transport in London.

All three LT bus garages in Hackney were deserted, except for pickets. Flying pickets from other garages visited Stamford Hill, Manor House and Ash Grove, while delegations from Hackney visited Walthamstow and garages around east London. Apart from a few number 29 buses in the morning no buses moved in Hackney.

The solidarity of the strike reflected a lot of grassroots activity. The strike call came from local branches and was passed at a London Transport trade union committee meeting on 20 March.

Stamford Hill driver Alan Payling described the day to HPP as "a good laugh around the brazier" but explained that the strike also signalled "a growing realisation among rank and file workers that soon stronger action will be needed".

See picture on back page.

Cruise on the road: Hackney women protest

Hackney peace women had a clear message for motorists when the cruise convoy again left Greenham air-base. The ten minute demo stopped traffic at Dalston junction early on 29th March. A similar action took place earlier in the month, on March 9th, when Hackney Greenham women held up traffic for 20 minutes. Both protests were peaceful, with no arrests. As HPP went to press, hundreds of police moved in to evict the Greenham peace camp. The women have vowed to stay on. (See story page 3).



**Save
Hackney
Campaign**

**SPECIAL
SUPPLEMENT
INSIDE**

Democratic structures and unions

Dear HPP,

Your correspondent John Hooper, in your March issue, suggests you should speak 'without fear or favour'. Without fear, maybe, but without favour? Surely a people's press should show an element of favour towards sections of the community which don't get a crack at the establishment media, and an element of disfavour towards those forces, groups or individuals who line themselves up with the people's oppressors?

Having had the understanding (or maybe misunderstanding) that these were your aims, I was somewhat shocked to see, alongside John Hooper's letter, a declaration of your intention to be evenhanded in the questions of the Free Form dispute and the establishing of Cultural Partnerships. Do you really intend to seek out and promote the 'positive side' of Free Form, a group which was boycotted by its union for 3 months over its treatment of 12 of its workers? A group which now includes on its workforce people who were taken on during this boycott, and presumably in full knowledge of it? I trust the HPP team are all good trades unionists, and can be relied on to show a healthy bias against draconian managements and scab labour?

When this kind of dispute happens, we must dwell on the differences because they are not just differences of name. They are differences of structure, accountability and purpose which are crucial within the community sector.

No doubt TBF, the printers at the heart of the dispute between the NUJ and the Dimpleby Newspaper Group, do a lovely print job. But if you had the money (and were based in Nottingham) would you consider using them? Of course not.

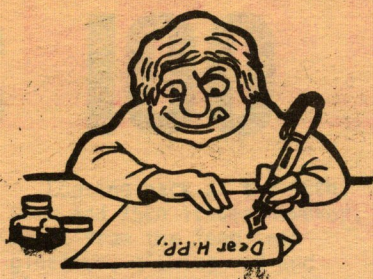
Yours for democratic structures, trades unions and long memories.

Felicity Harvest

Save Hackney: an open Campaign

Dear HPP

I must say that I find it surprising to find snide remarks about the Save Hackney Campaign appearing in HPP, which has in the past participated in our events and been supportive in coverage. The Save Hackney Campaign, as HPP well knows, has no elected committee or determined lines already dotted and comma'd; it is deliberately open so that everyone can have a say in what goes on. Although the open meetings



letters

are held at lunch time at the moment, there are other forums for feedback - the HCA open meetings, our recent review meeting and the phone. Recently we have been sending out review forms asking for comments. So it's a bit strange to get backhand swipes at us from HPP when we've had no constructive criticism.

We seem to be accused of not creating a really popular campaign with broad based support and of being nothing more than a 'professional left' protecting our own jobs. This shows a surprising lack of knowledge of the SHC - the actions have been composed mainly of the 'receivers' of services, people who really care about the services under threat, and very few 'professionals', by which I presume HPP means paid community workers. Actions have included handicapped children and their parents at the Huddleston Centre, playgroups under threat and pensioners who fall over broken pavements every day. We supported a social organisation by Hackney Black Alliance, aimed at the 'workers' uniting to defend Hackney - all workers, not just the professional left.

We never said we could cover everyone in Hackney. But we've been meeting with Labour Party wards, trade unions and all sorts of organisations trying to encourage them to take action in their own spheres. SHC initiated joint meetings to plan the recent successful Democracy Week of Action. We have set up a good relationship with the Council unions, who are also campaigning against rate-capping. We will be spending the summer going out to festivals, having stalls in markets and encouraging street parties, all to reach new people. How much 'more popular' can we try to get?

Surely HPP's criticism should be directed against other groups such as the Labour Party (and other parties) who are doing virtually nothing (with a few exceptions such as Homerton ward) rather than criticising the few people making a concerted effort.

As for the argument that we are making a special case for Hackney at the expense of other similar boroughs, I would have thought that people are most directly concerned with their services and jobs which are threatened, and that is why many become initially involved. Once support is established, it is important to join up with other boroughs, with community campaigns, trade unions etc to link the issues nationally and provide the broadest possible alliance to defeat the government's proposals. This is what we have been doing.

Some of the comments in the last edition of HPP are

valid and are being taken on board, others are misinformed. However it is the way in which you have approached it, in terms of scoring points rather than with constructive ideas which shows an inability to work within an open forum like SHC. This is very upsetting and demoralising.

We hope to hear from you, and your readers, so that the open forum and style of the campaign can be developed even further.

Sue Bradley
for Save Hackney Campaign.

Thousands sleep rough

Dear HPP,

One of the most formidable problems confronting society today is that of single homeless people. It affects men and women, young people and old, from every section of the community. It is a disgrace to the country, to the government in power and to the local authorities, regardless of party, that in this late twentieth century there are hundreds of thousands of human beings having to sleep rough, in squats or in very old doss-houses at all times of the year and in all weathers. Youngsters of 14 years of age and adults of 80 years or more are affected by this quite serious problem.

Hackney has a branch of C.H.A.R. (Campaign for the Single Homeless) which meets at regular intervals. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9 May at 7.30 pm in the Rectory of St John's-at-Hackney Parish Church, the Narrow Way, Mare Street, E8.

At the meeting we will have a speaker from Homeless Action on the problems faced by homeless women.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Kepper
Andrew Roberts

Gery and sherry

Councillor Gery Lawless has complained to HPP about a reference to him in last month's HPP. He would like us to make it clear that he has not been involved in stirring up anti-traveller hysteria, and that he has a record of defending travellers rights going back many years in Ireland as well as in Britain. He has also shown us evidence that the Council leadership has been in the practice of holding special policy meetings at Anthony Kendall's house. It has yet to be shown that these take place over convivial glasses of sherry. If Gery Lawless can produce documentary evidence, in the shape of empty Harveys, Domecq or any other pleasant little fino bottles found lurking in the dustbins of Geldeston Road, then we will be happy to stand further corrected.

NEW DEPUTY IN SHUFFLE

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun? Who would have thought that it's almost two years since the last set of Council elections and that we are therefore halfway through the lifetime of this particular administration. Well, that's where we are now and this year there are going to be some changes near the top of the ladder.

Right at the very top, however, there is a firmly painted sign, No Vacancies. Anyone who is expecting to get Council leader Anthony Kendall's job is going to be disappointed, and there are no serious contenders. There are a number of people who think that they could do a better job, of course, most notably irascible ex-leader Johnny Kotz. But they are doomed to failure, and Kendall looks likely to survive until the next round of elections. Whether he would get reselected in his own Northwold ward is another matter, but that is a hurdle he will not have to face for eighteen months or so.

Personal

The big news (hold your breaths) is that deputy leader Peter Kahn is stepping down, and will probably return to the back benches. His climbdown is said to be for 'personal reasons' (his recent foray into fatherhood) and not because of any political purging. He is likely to be succeeded by either the rather serious Andrew Puddephat (an ex-communist - think what joy that will bring to Joe Lobenstein's heart!) or possibly ace-knitter and left-winger Hilda Kean. Puddephat is the favourite son of the current leadership, but he might find it a close-run thing in his gallp towards the post. This will create a number of vacancies in and around the area of the front benches of the Council, and there is quite likely to be a wholesale reshuffle of seats amongst the chairs of the various committees. The middle of the road types (Tony Millwood, Richard Gee, Jim and Mary Cannon and so on) who form the solidest chunk of the leadership's support would like to grab a few more of the chairs for themselves and their mates. Far-lefties like Patrick Kodikara and Brynley Heaven may get themselves elbowed out in the rush, but one shouldn't underestimate the political antennae both possess which will probably ensure their survival. Either would, of course, be happy to put themselves forward for a more grandiose position if one was to become available. And the ambitious Brynley Heaven would be happy to take over the leadership



INSIDE LEFT

in the event of, say, an unhappy accident outside the Town Hall involving Anthony Kendall and a 253 bus. Brynley's long march through the Hackney wards ("The man who defeated Johnny Kotz as the electoral agent in the old Hackney Central Labour Party") may well see him good for the struggle next time, after the 1986 elections.

What about policies? Will there be any changes in the forward thinking strategy which struck terror into the heart of central government? These are, of course, the real questions which should concern us, rather than the cosmetic changes wrought by the shuffling around of the chairs of various impotent council committees. The answer, I regret to say, is that there will be no turning back. Hackney is set to continue its muddling way through yet another year. Decentralisation (do you remember that?) looks further away than ever, a crisis over an illegal budget has been averted by the narrow acceptance of the 17% rate rise, the bum posters have been stowed away for another day.

The Big One

The word is going out: Next Year is the Big One. Boroughs all over the country are now supposed to be co-ordinating their plans to take on the Government on the rate-capping legislation, by setting illegal budgets for 1985-6. Liverpool is but a dry run for the real fightback. You don't have to be very cynical to observe that you've heard all this before. Any time over the last five, even ten, years you could have heard voices in Town Halls across the land saying Next Year is the Big One. Many people believe what the Government probably believes, that all but a few councils will bottle out. And that may well be true. If Hackney Council is to put up a real fight, and if it is to bring the people of Hackney into the struggle with it, then it has to start the campaign now, by building massive popular support. If it's really going to be Forward to the Barricades, Comrades, then we have to build them with solid foundations.

CRUISE PROTEST

Twice in recent weeks traffic has been brought to a standstill at Dalston Junction. This was the action of Hackney Greenham women peace groups, blocking the road for a time to draw local people's attention to the presence on our roads of cruise missile launchers.

The first time the cruise convoy finally broke out of Greenham Common USAF base - after delays of many months - was 9 March. Hackney women responded swiftly, for though the convoy travelled in the early hours of the morning, at 8.00am the same morning the women blockaded the road for twenty minutes. Again last Thursday, 29 March, a convoy broke out and Dalston was briefly blockaded.

On each occasion women with banners leafletted drivers and pedestrians, explaining that if there was a real nuclear alert the government would close main roads to use them for its own purposes. We would be trapped defenceless in our homes, unable to escape... much as the women at Greenham were trapped by police who tried to stop them passing on the news that the convoy had got out.

'The response of most motorists was generally goodnatured and they showed a lot of interest', said a spokeswoman. 'There were no arrests on either occasion; indeed the police seemed rather non-plussed as to what they should do, and relieved when we left

at the end of the time we had previously fixed on.'

The message of the blockade to Hackney people was that Greenham women are everywhere - indeed many Hackney women are Greenham women. They are active not just at Greenham, but all over Britain. And they will go on being active... every cruise convoy will be met with publicity and delay. And will continue to be until cruise is removed from Britain and nuclear weapons from the world.

Increased activity

The Hackney group of Greenham has been growing rapidly in numbers and strength over the past year. In the

spring of 1983 the original Hackney and East London group of women active around Greenham became too big and split into two. Since then so many women in Hackney have become actively involved that there are now ten or eleven groups in the borough - each with from six to twenty members - and new groups are forming all the time. Each group works independently but regular all-Hackney meetings enable the co-ordinating of joint actions such as this blockade.

Occasional meetings are organised at which new women can meet each other and think about forming a new group. The next such meeting is expected to be on 16 April. Ring Rowena on 985 8869.

FUTURE ACTION

The governments plan to close certain "essential service routes" (escape routes) in a nuclear crisis has been copied by CND as a way of protesting about the military cruise missile convoys from the Greenham Common base. (See story)

As there are essential service routes in Hackney, CND needs to be prepared for swift local action.

- Interested? Can You:
- Make Posters?
 - Hand out leaflets?
 - Be an Observer?
 - Talk to passers-by?
 - Join the Blockade?

These are just some of the tasks, becoming involved does not mean that you have to get arrested. Further details from Tony on 533 2465.

IT'S LEGAL!

The Council's appeal to the High Court over the legality of the governments current spending restrictions was rejected last month.

So environment secretary Patrick Jenkin can lawfully impose spending targets on the Council which lead to rate rises or service cuts. Whether the targets may in reality be attainable has nothing to do with their legality - implementing the impossible is now Hackney's problem, not the governments.

Council leader Anthony Kendall commented that he was "Frankly amazed that a High Court judge could declare that the secretary of state has no duty to consider the implications of his cuts on the people most affected."

Of course the law is only concerned with protecting the establishment and the technical points that enable this. The welfare of the majority of the population and moral issues of what is right do not come into it.

It is hard to blame the council for making an appeal in view of Hackney's current plight, but we shouldn't really be surprised by the outcome. Saving Hackney will require more than a resort to legal measures...

SUPERSTRUCTURES

Superstructures is a Hackney based Co-Op producing a range of timber play equipment, custom built to meet individual local needs and requirements.

The scale of the work varies from designing complete play grounds to that of small individual items of street furniture such as seats etc.

Although operating on a commercial basis they are also receiving some GLC grant aid to support their community design work. Superstructures can be contacted on 739 8595.



HASBUDAK DEPORTATION CAMPAIGN NEWS

The children of Turkish parents in Stoke Newington are taking Thatcher to the European Commission on Human Rights on a charge of violating their basic human rights. Zeynep and Fatih Hasbudak, aged eight and six, are British citizens, yet the Government has denied them their right to live and be educated in this country by deporting their parents to Turkey. Zeynep and Fatih had the choice of going into care or being forced to go to Turkey - a country they've never visited.

The staff and parents of William Patten School (which was attended by both children) formed the Stop and Hasbudak Deportation Campaign in October 1983. The school considered that the Hasbudaks were the victims of arbitrary, racist immigration laws, and that taking up their case to stay was part of the

school's anti-racist policy. The campaign quickly gained widespread support in Hackney from the Council, labour movement bodies, community organisations and other schools. Messages of support and donations also came from other areas in London and even beyond. The children's rights have been championed, in particular, by the Islington-based Children's Legal Centre which submitted the case to the European Commission on behalf of Zeynep and Fatih.

Coachloads of children, staff and parents picketed the Home Office a couple of times; 400 letters from children were sent to the Home Office as well as a petition containing thousands of signatures; children's press conferences were held; staff and parents held a 24-hour vigil outside the Home Office. The campaign

very quickly gained a lot of publicity. The Home Office minister, David Waddington, denounced the 'strident' campaign and the Hasbudaks for involving other people in their defence. He also made various disgusting statements concerning the parents' 'irresponsibility' in having children and in using legal procedures available in England - these statements were heatedly disputed by Brian Sedgemore, MP for Hackney South.

Final Orders

Waddington responded by issuing a final deportation order on 28 November. The Hasbudak family decided to go into hiding rather than go to Turkey, and stayed hidden until the police 'kidnapped' the father, Polat,

when he went to collect a registered letter. He was subsequently deported on 12 March. Zeynep and Fatih were deported, effectively, on 4 April when they left with their mother. Going into care in Hackney was not a preferable option!

Their departure does not bring the campaign to an end. While the case is being considered by The European Commission, we are going to maintain contact with the family and bring the children back for annual holidays so that they don't lose their friendships nor their language abilities.

Through this campaign we have also made contact with other people in similar situations and discussions are taking place to set up a London-wide co-ordinating body for deportation campaigns.

We will continue pressuring and working with Hackney Council to set up an anti-deportation unit which would link up with the GLC equivalent, and which would provide a campaigning resource. William Patten School staff and parents are putting together a dossier which other ILEA schools can use. We will not allow the case to be forgotten!

Donations are still welcome to cover our debts. Please send to Stop the Hasbudak Deportation Campaign, c/o William Patten School, Stoke Newington Church St, N16

BENEFIT

Thursday, 12 April, 7.30pm at the Rio Cinema, Kingsland High Street. Speakers from the campaign, the Sari Squad and the Turkish community, followed by the film 'Yol' by Yilmaz Guney.

Lea View revamped

Part one of the modernisation of the Lea View Estate is now complete. On the first saturday in March, tenants turned out to plant the landscape outside Lea View House, the first block to be revamped.

The £6 million project in Upper Clapton is being carried out as part of an innovative exercise in consultation between the Council, the tenants and architects Hunt Thompson associates. This came about after the Tenants Association held a mass demonstration at the Town Hall in 1981, demanding positive action to help stem the estate's creeping decay.

Tenants' action reverses years of creeping decay

As part of the agreement with the Council, tenants have been involved in all the crucial decisions concerning the wholesale redesign of Lea View. This has included the customised redecoration of every flat and the provision of carpeting in the communal areas; lifts; ground floor maisonettes for families with children; new roofs; security measures for the upper stories and special sheltered accommodation for the elderly and handicapped. Relining work is also being carried out to prevent condensation, the tenants' worst problem. Dolly Pritchard, Chair of



Lea View Estate tenants plant ideologically sound trees. But another HPP correspondent is branching out in other directions (See below).

the Tenants' Association says: "I just walk around and admire my place, I'm so chuffed with it. It's been worth every meeting, every protest." As the landscaping was being completed, architect John Thompson summed up the change in the estate's morale: "Three years ago

no body thought it was worth doing anything like this as it would just get vandalised. Now there is a tangible sense of pride amongst the community generated by what they have all achieved, and that's good for the estate and good for Hackney, for it shows that involving people really does work."

TREES FOR THE BOURGEOISIE

Attempts by the Hackney Council to bourgeoisify the part of Hackney becoming known as Clissold Village have continued, backed by the residents' association. One of the latest ploys is the inane policy of planting trees in the streets of Britain's poorest borough. Coupled up with the policy of having more police to arrest the prostitutes (perhaps the police will hide behind the trees?), the Council no doubt hopes that undesirable elements will be driven away.

These houses have been put in pavements of small width in the first place. Also the Council may not be aware of the fact that trees grow, in fact some of them grow very large indeed. Furthermore they grow up and down so that in years to come we can look forward to having no sunlight in the houses and the drains, gas and other services will have roots going through them. At the end of the day it will probably cost the Council twenty times as much to take the trees out as to put them in.

HOLES APPEAR IN LOOPY LINK PLANS

The British Rail scheme to close down the City link into Broad Street Station has run into difficulties - but it is feared that the set-back is only temporary.

The original plan for the Liverpool Street/Broad Street area fell through as the site would have been too riddled with tunnels to support such a grandiose scheme. A less ambitious plan has now been put forward, but it is still one which will mean closing Broad Street.

BR is expected to publish shortly - probably in June - notification of its intention to close Broad Street in May 1985. The plan is to direct the North London line from Dalston along the cross town link to North Woolwich. The rush-hour only trains from Watford to Broad Street will be re-routed along the yet-to-be-built Graham Road curve to Liverpool St.

Hackney Borough Council and the North London line commuters' group have been fighting the closure, but they have, regrettably, had little help from the GLC. The GLC's manifesto committed it to improving orbital transport, part-

icularly to Dockland, and the city link appears to be of little interest.

Despite GLC support, economics of the whole proposed plan seem more than a little bizarre. The cross-town link to Woolwich is currently losing £1m a year, and carries only 150 people a day. The North London line, on the other hand, is just breaking even, but 20% of its passengers travel on to Broad Street, and will all be lost with the closure.

Survey

The GLC has given £30,000 to Hackney Council to pay for a survey - the N E London Rail Study - examining the options for the City link. The report is expected in July, but any proposals it makes are unlikely to be taken up.

Meeting

The next meeting of the North London line committee will be held in Tuesday, 17 April at 8.00 in the Hamood Community Centre, Ferdinand St, NW1. Nearest rail station is Kentish Town West. Whether you are a passenger on the line, or just interested in keeping it going, you will be very welcome to come along.

THE CASE AGAINST SINGLE DRIVER BUSES

Alan Payling, a contributor to Busworker Monthly and a London Transport driver at Stamford Hill, has written a campaign pamphlet entitled "NO MORE OPO".

The leaflet is drawn from articles printed in Busworker monthly and puts forward bus worker's arguments against one-person operated (OPO) buses on health, efficiency and social grounds. It is illustrated by Romford driver Kevin Sayce.

London Transport Executive currently has a policy to introduce 100% OPO within the Central Bus Section. The present OPO level is 53% and LT is aiming to raise this to 65% by 1987.

Passengers have to queue to pay fares on OPO buses, which causes delays on busy roads and increases journey times. LT's own cost-benefit analysis has estimated that losses to passengers and other road users from traffic delays would be equivalent to £3.3m. Even from an economic point of view OPO makes no sense. NO MORE OPO also highlights the effect of increased stress on OPO drivers. A study conducted by Leeds bus workers revealed increased incidences of certain medical complaints among OPO drivers: stomach disorders (47%); back ache (66%); and sleeplessness (51%).

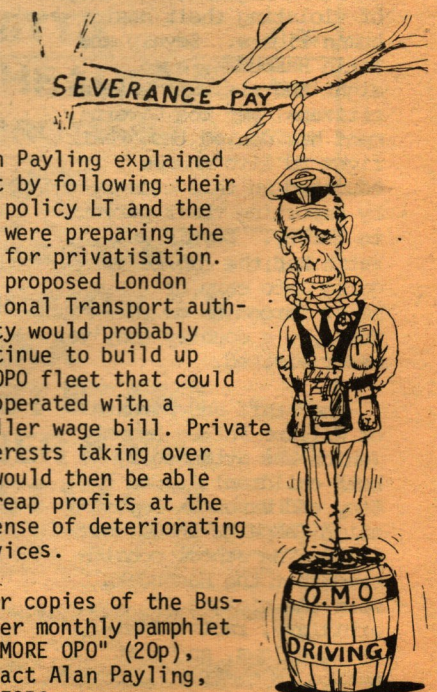
Hidden costs

NO MORE OPO argues that both busworkers and the community will suffer from these proposals. London Transport's OPO rationale is based on mathematics--that you can run more OPO buses with less staff, ignoring the hidden costs for rate and taxpayers of unemployment payments for redundant conductors.

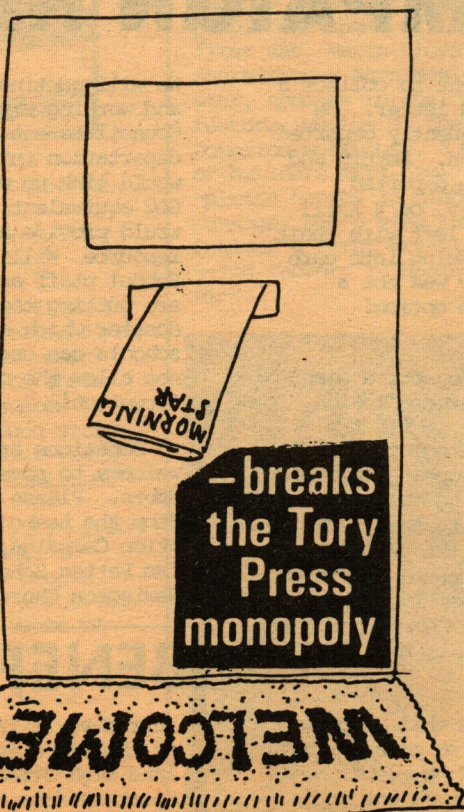
LT's three year plan foresees 1000 job cuts at a savings of £5.3m, but a GLC calculation based on unemployment payments and the loss of output--the value of what an unemployed worker would have produced--estimates the cost of the redundancies at £5 million.

Alan Payling explained that by following their OPO policy LT and the GLC were preparing the way for privatisation. The proposed London Regional Transport authority would probably continue to build up an OPO fleet that could be operated with a smaller wage bill. Private interests taking over LT would then be able to reap profits at the expense of deteriorating services.

For copies of the Busworker monthly pamphlet "NO MORE OPO" (20p), contact Alan Payling, 306 7956.



Read the Morning Star every day



available from your newsagent

WHAT IS THE "SAVE HACKNEY CAMPAIGN" ?

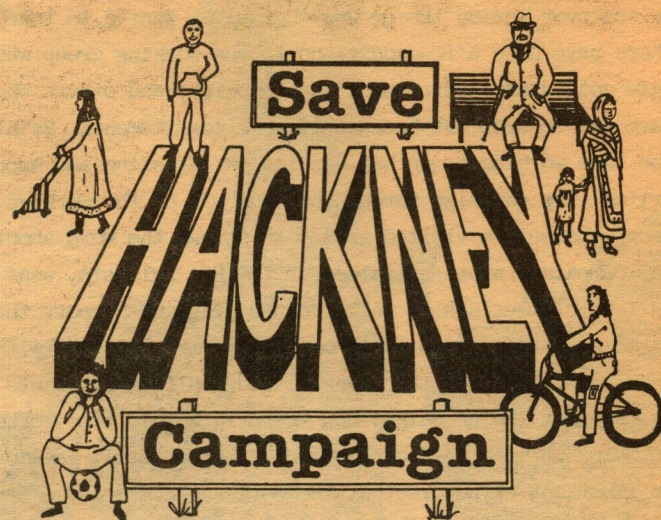
THE BACKGROUND

The idea for this campaign dates back to May 1983, when an Open Meeting of Hackney Community Action discussed the prospect of Inner City Partnership money getting tighter, and limits on council budgets meaning Direct Grants to community groups would not be readily forthcoming. We could see that community groups were actually going to be forced to close, and ones that didn't would be involved in managing on less resources, and competing with each other for the scarce funds that were available. We also recognised that council services of which we are receivers, were also under threat.

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The "Save Hackney Campaign" has not emerged from nowhere. It is based on a lively and active community sector in Hackney. There are divisions; there are struggles; we are sometimes in conflict with each other and often with the council. But there is also a high degree of shared interest and experience. This is what the campaign is built on.



The HACKNEY BREAKFAST SHOW



ONE OF THE EARLY EVENTS OF THE "SAVE HACKNEY CAMPAIGN" WAS THE HACKNEY BREAKFAST SHOW. IT WAS TO SHOW THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, SIR GEORGE YOUNG, THAT HACKNEY WAS FULL OF LIVELY AND IMPORTANT PROJECTS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TO GO DOWN THE DRAIN. ALL THE PRODUCTS AT THE BREAKFAST WERE PRODUCED IN HACKNEY. PEOPLE'S FARM EGGS, BYRON'S BAKERY, FLOWERS FROM A LOCAL CO-OP, BUDS 'N BLOOMS AND MANY MORE. AFTER THIS EVENT AN EXTRA £2.25 MILLION WAS GIVEN TO HACKNEY. PEANUTS REALLY, BUT WE GIVE CREDIT TO THIS TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENT.

THE AIMS

Most basically the aims are to "Save Hackney" from any further devastation through cuts ; whether through Inner City Partnership, Rate Support Grant, Rate Capping, Abolition of the GLC, etc. But linked to this very strongly is 'how we do it', and building strength & confidence in groups/individuals through learning to take action.

Our aims are not the normal ones you would find on a leaflet;

- Supporting and encouraging actions and events that will bring more resources to Hackney.
- Asking community groups to work out what oppresses them or threatens their survival most, and take action against it.
- Celebrating the strengths and positive aspects of the community, and saying that we refuse to die or allow ourselves to be cut away, we will continue.
- Linking in with other campaigns, like Hackney Health Emergency, Save GLC etc.
- Working with the union and council campaigns
- Not necessarily supporting the council all the time! (but preferably locating where the real culprit is, ie Central Govt)
- Having the minimum number of meetings
- Having a good time (traditional campaigns seem to imply that we have to suffer for our beliefs, we 'ought' to do this, rather than wanting to!)
- Building in the groups a knowledge of how to take action; a feeling of pride and solidarity with the rest of the community; and a feeling of strength and power to carry on their own struggles.

HOW IT WORKS

At an Open Meeting of Hackney Community Action, volunteers were asked to form a working group to look at the possibilities for a campaign. They reported back and it was decided to launch a campaign, but one with a difference, based on whatever action the groups themselves wanted to take. There have been a few additions to the working group who have got enthusiastic about the campaign, and others who have had to drop out because of work commitments. Mainly the same working group has carried on 'steering and supporting' the campaign throughout. Members of the working group themselves visited groups to spread the word about the campaign, wrote articles for the HCA bulletin, went to lots of meetings to talk, helped plan and support the first event, services their own group, made contact with other campaigns and the council, and applied for grants to support the campaign. Now there is a full time worker to help out with this kind of work, but it still remains an important principle that the worker plays a low profile supporting the groups, but making sure that the base of the campaign stays with the groups themselves.



THESE KIDS WENT DOWN TO THE BONNINGTON HOTEL TO SUPPORT A PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT RATE CAPPING CALLED BY LOCAL COUNCILS UNDER THREAT.

The working group meets every Tuesday lunchtime, as they all work in Hackney, and everyone seems too busy to make a regular evening meeting. The group now keeps an overview of what is happening and which direction we're heading in. It identifies key dates for potential action especially linked to Rate Capping, GLC etc. It provides speakers or film shows. It agrees financial and staffing support for groups who want to mount an action, provides support for them through press releases, booking coaches making props, etc. The working group is open to anyone, and usually 2/3 new faces appear regularly.



PENSIONERS IN HACKNEY ORGANISED A COMPETITION FOR THE WORST BROKEN PAVEMENT IN HACKNEY. THERE WERE LOTS OF ENTRIES - THE WORST ONE HAS RECENTLY BEEN MENDED !

GROUPS WHO'VE TAKEN PART SO FAR.....

- CHILDRENS SCRAP PROJECT
- HOMERTON GROVE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND
- CARIBBEAN HOUSE GROUP
- PEOPLE'S PRESS
- OFF CENTRE
- SAVE HACKNEY EDUCATION
- SAM URIAH MORRIS SOCIETY
- HACKNEY ASIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION
- DALSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
- UNION OF MUSLIM FAMILIES
- HACKNEY ASIAN CENTRE
- RIO NEWSREEL GROUP
- QUATZ THEATRE GROUP
- CENTRE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED
- HACKNEY AFRICAN ORGANISATION
- HACKNEY SPRINGBOARD
- HACKNEY HEALTH EMERGENCY
- HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
- ASIAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION
- RADING ROAD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
- MIXIFREN
- MARKET NURSERY
- HACKNEY PEOPLES FARM
- BARNARDS
- HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
- HACKNEY FESTIVAL SUPPORT
- ALBION KIDS SHOW
- DEFOE DAY CARE NURSERY
- TRINIDAD & TORO ASSOC
- AFRO CARIBBEAN SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOL
- FAMILY CENTRE
- HACKNEY TOY LIBRARIES
- PITTFIELD PROJECT
- DALSTON CHILDRENS CENTRE
- ART ATTACK
- TRADE UNION SUPPORT UNIT
- PYRAMID ARTS
- HACKNEY CYPRIOT ASSOCIATION
- ALLENS GARDENS ACTION GROUP
- FIRESTATION NURSERY
- HACKNEY PAKISTANI WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION
- FREE FORM
- HACKNEY C.R.E.
- HACKNEY BLACK ALLIANCE
- HOMERTON WARD LABOUR PARTY
- HOMERTON DEVP. CAMPAIGN
- HACKNEY PENSIONERS PROJECT
- PENSIONERS LINK
- CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS
- RIO CINEMA
- CENTERPRISE
- HACKNEY NALGO
- HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL
- HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
- MORNINGSIDE PLAYGROUP
- HACKNEY A.E.I.
- EXPERIENCE YOUNG PEOPLES THEATRE
- LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY
- HACKNEY WOMEN'S AID
- LITTLE WOMEN THEATRE
- HACKNEY NALGO WOMEN'S GROUP
- PERPETUAL BEAUTY CARNIVAL CLUB
- SPRINGFIELD PROJECT
- HACKNEY COMMUNITY ACTION
- HACKNEY MUSLIM COUNCIL
- HACKNEY JOBSHARE
- RAINES DAIRY
- BUDS 'N BLOOMS
- BYRONS BAKERY
- RAYNER DUNCAN LTD
- LLOYDS DAIRY

THANKS ALSO TO ALL THOSE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAVE TAKEN PART.

APOLOGIES TO ANYONE WE MIGHT HAVE LEFT OFF.

OUR STYLE

Right from the start there was a mixture of skills and experience in the group, ranging from people with a lot of creative experience with groups to the ageing hacks who could not face another year of traditional cuts campaigns and lots and lots of meetings which dragged on and dampened enthusiasm. Everyone knew they couldn't stay at home and watch the Government trim away community projects, council services and local jobs. Thus it was that the "Save Hackney Campaign" emerged. Trying to find alternative ways of getting people involved in defending Hackney - partly by legitimising different ways of doing things - and partly by asking groups to organise around what they feel most strongly about - e.g. broken pavements, lost nurseries, local jobs etc. The campaign recognises that autonomous action is far more important than talking ourselves into the ground. It recognises the level of energy and commitment in the community, and if you can make action fun and make your point, there is a huge potential for activities and for people to take power into their own hands.

This kind of style we believe

*A far greater variety of people will get involved

*Actions can capture peoples imagination and enthusiasm (including, fortunately for us, the press)

*People taking part feeling that they are powerful and can do so again and again.

There is scepticism about the campaign - some people say the campaign is just staging stunts, but we have never failed to get our political messages across through our actions and our messages through the press.

The 'style' we've adopted means -

Having faith in the community sector and all actions of the campaign - enthusiasm spreads quickly

Action notes with cartoons etc in language that people can understand



A VALENTINE'S DAY CARD WAS DELIVERED PERSONALLY TO NO 10. BY HACKNEY GROUPS ASKING MAGGIE THATCHER TO "HAVE A HEART" FOR HACKNEY.

People who really care for Hackney being more important than people with campaigning experience

The most important priority is to give people a sense of their own power

Slides instead of speeches at meetings, preferably as few meetings as possible !

An 'action' based working group

Constantly sharing and spreading our ideas, and support for the working group and participants in the campaign

People from the working group offering their time and energy to do radio and TV interviews when asked

And finally, the working group being very careful not to take over the campaign, but to constantly support new ideas and actions.

THE CAMPAIGN GOES INTO ACTION

Remember anyone can take these kinds of actions



THE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH. October 27th 1983
Children from five playschemes travel by boat to the House of Commons to lobby their M.P.'s.



HANG ON SIR GEORGE! 11th November 1983 Sir George Young comes to Hackney to attend a meeting of the Partnership Committee. He is welcomed with a breakfast of Hackney Produce.



DEMOCRACY DAY March 29th 1984.
The Government proposes to abolish the GLC. The Save Hackney Campaign float joined the march organised by local Government Trade Unions.

A boat trip to Parliament. 5 Playgroups hired a boat to take to Westminster, they are all threatened with closure. They were met by Hackney MPs and had a tour of the Commons causing havoc along the way.

The minister of Technology came to visit Hackney and we presented him with a 'floppy disc' for his own home computer with facts about Hackney on it.

A nursery threatened with closure, took a letter to Lady Di (a cardboard cut-out - the real one was too busy) to Buckingham Palace

Hackney Playgroups had a film show at the Rio, all these groups are under threat. There were about 500 in attendance.

Hackney C.R.E. held a public meeting with councillors & Paul Harrison, (author of 'Inside the Inner City')

Hackney Black Alliance organised a social at Stoke Newington Town Hall with a Save Hackney theme.

Rio/Centerprise had a "Beat the Blues" evening, a combination of a film made about Hackney, Paul Harrison talking about his book, and local writers. This proved a really critical debate about the way outsiders depict Hackney.

Democracy Week of Action. The Save Hackney Campaign launched the week with a vehicle cavalcade on Saturday and stalls in the markets. Cultural Partnerships had a "Democracy Cafe" on the Tuesday, and lots of us joined in the local rally organised by the Joint Shop Stewards Committee on Wednesday. We had a float on the main demonstration on Democracy Day itself and we organised lots of coaches.

On Valentine's Day we handed in a giant card to Maggie Thatcher and Patrick Jenkin. On the same day there was a women and kids event when hundreds of balloons were let off with Have a Heart postcards attached with messages from groups and individual from all over Hackney.

We have an alternative petition, which looks like a brick wall, we've done a posh poster, a giant mural, lots of letters to the local press, organised socials, had market stalls, open days, public meetings and given information. We've supported the national Local Government campaign's press conference, organised coaches in support of ILEA and the GLC, put on kids entertainment etc etc.

Lots of people who have been involved have tried to make all the actions have as broad an impact as possible and as much fun as possible.



The children questioned their M.P.'s about what M.P.'s can do to Save Hackney and learnt about the workings of Parliamentary Democracy.



Thanks to the people like these who came along and gave their support, the Government granted Hackney another £2.2 million. at the Partnership meeting.



WE MIGHT BE A SUBMARINE - BUT WE AIN'T STAYING UNDER NO LONGER !

IS IT WORKING ?

We felt right from the start that it was really important to get a good balance between local activities to raise awareness in Hackney and get local publicity; and between the more ambitious activities aimed at central London / House of Commons / National Press. This seems to have worked well so far.

Effectiveness should be counted partly by the strength of the campaign. It is obvious that the campaign is creating a sense of strength in groups - they keep coming back for more ! Also each working group there are more people coming to present proposals, more meetings to speak at, more boroughs to help set up campaigns in ! It still keeps growing, and if it is helping to inspire groups in other boroughs to set up campaigns this is a tremendous achievement.

Also we have achieved some kind of climbdown on the Inner City Partnership cuts. As we have said before we have gained an extra £2.2 million for the borough.

However, we must stress the importance of the press - although we don't want them to dictate our activities they are very useful, and they seem to like our style ! Press coverage has come our way very easily it seems.

For instance;

Locally - regular features of our activities, and letters in the Hackney Gazette, Hackney People's Press, East End News, East London Advertiser, and on the Rio cinema slide reels.

Radio - LBC reports, Radio AM, Black Londoners, and Rushour and Radio London.

T.V. - The 6 O'Clock Show, Thames TV news and the London Programme.

Papers - The Telegraph, The Standard, The Daily Star, The Morning Star, Community Care, City Limits, The Surveyor (local government magazine) The Voice, Caribbean Times, Daily Yang, Turkish Community Post, Asian Times, Oxford Mail, Western Daily Press, The Journal Hull, Daily Mail, Aberdeen Press and Journal, and Screen International.

WE THINK WE'RE DOING QUITE WELL !

LINKING UP

People involved in the "Save Hackney Campaign" realise that we're not going to win this alone, so linking up with other groups and campaigns has been very important. We have helped get off the ground similar projects initiated by the community sector in several other places. We have started up some London wide 'community sector' actions, such as the handing in of submissions to the Government about the Abolition of the GLC. We are also maintaining these links as well as learning lessons from other places. Notably through our contact with Community Work Service and the Campaign for London Democracy.

On a local level we are linking up with the council Trade Unions and the Trades Council. We think it is really important to make contact with the people providing the services in Hackney as well as those on the receiving end. We've been working together on planning the recent "Democracy Week" of action in Hackney and hope that we can continue in this way. We've also done a joint event with Hackney Health Emergency, and we are linking together with other groups to co-ordinate work on the government proposals to abolish the GLC.



Children from the Hackney Muslim Council Playscheme assemble at Hackney Town Hall for the Boat Trip to the House of Commons.



Helping children up the steps as they go to lobby their M.P.'s.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The campaign continues to go really well. We are still gaining momentum.

WHY NOT JOIN IN. There are lots of different things you can do to get involved.

We realise that people have different amount of time to spare, and different

kinds of skills to offer, we want to make the most of this. You can help us

when we have practical workshops - painting banners, making effigies, costumes,

etc etc. You could help us when we have stalls in the markets or at the festivals

coming up this summer. You could help by handing out leaflets for an hour or so.

You could help by getting a section of the Brick Wall petition filled in.

You could help by displaying our posters, designing badges/stickers etc.

You could raise the Save Hackney Campaign at any meetings you might attend -

or with your friends. And you are certainly welcome to come and join in any

planned activities or demonstrations. And you will be even more welcome to

come to a Save Hackney Campaign working group meeting on Tuesdays with your

own ideas for activities, or just to find out what's going on.

We shall also be having an evening session for people who can't make

lunch time dates.

If you want to find out more, or be put on the mailing list - please

fill out the form.

And, oh yes, we do accept donations from people that want to make a

financial contribution to the campaign.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

** Continue to link with and support other campaigns, and to continue to build links in Hackney itself.

** Do lots more leaflets, stickers, posters, tee shirts, badges and so on to let people know we are here and what we are all about.

If you can help with any of these we would particularly like to hear from you.

** There will be lots of activities around the summer festivals, displays, stalls, balloons to blow up etc. Thousands of helpers needed!

** We want to encourage groups / streets / individuals to put on street parties with a Save Hackney theme. What about the best "street display" competition ?

** We will be having more stalls in the markets for spreading the word !

** A Hackney People's Court will be taking place in June where people of Hackney will be putting the government on trial for the crimes committed against them.

** And hopefully a young theatre group will be breaking the world record for non-stop performance. Any contributions to this days and days long event will be gratefully received.

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE "SAVE HACKNEY CAMPAIGN"

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

People who fill in this form will receive the mailing.
THE SAVE HACKNEY CAMPAIGN CAN BE CALLED ON 729-5536

Chaos in the City

An alternative "Democracy Day" took place on March 29 when thousands of people gathered to "Stop the City."

Stop the City was a carnival against war, oppression and exploitation, supported by a loose-knit collection of anarchist, peace, women's and animal liberation groups.

The protest called attention to the role financial institutions in the city of London play in subsidising and profiting from war, the destruction of the environment and the systematic exploitation of women, men and animals around the world.

One of the many leaflets circulating on the day said that although billions of pounds change hands every year in the city, the place is morally bankrupt. The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health care and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at seventeen billion dollars a year, about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks. But investment to reduce poverty and hunger and to promote peaceful self-sufficient development would harm companies' profits too much.

The city of London is international headquarters for a ruling class who are determined to maintain an economic order that is slowly killing us and who threaten even swifter destruction if their power is challenged.

In the true spirit of anarchy "Stop the City" wasn't organised by any single body. Groups and individuals were encouraged to express their protest in whatever way they chose. In preparation for the 29th, however, several groups organised creches and legal back-up for the day.

Brilliant

Ron, a cyclist from Finsbury Park, said: "The day was just brilliant. Everyone did just what they wanted to do. Street musicians played, one group burned fur coats and some people smashed bank windows. At one point Lombard Street was closed with people running up and down. Every road was chock a block. Something like Stop the City can't be organised and there are no spokespersons—that's what makes it so successful."

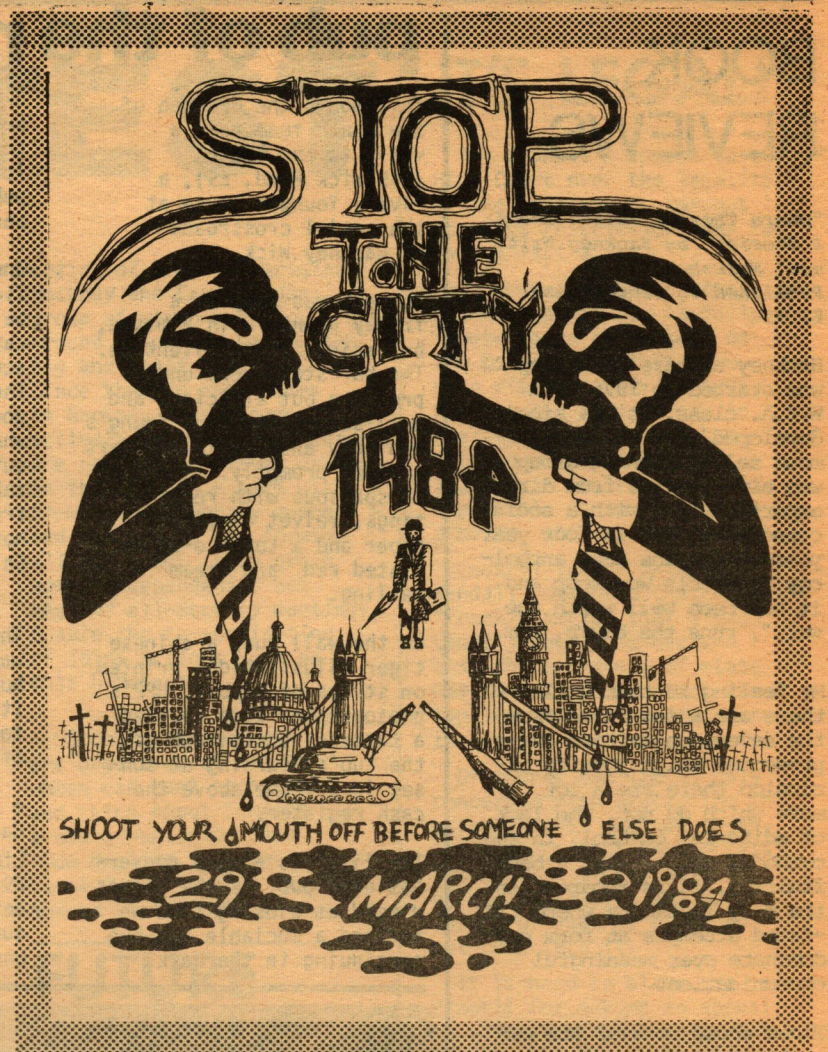
From around 8am onwards, groups of City-stoppers walked the streets whooping like American Indians and chanting slogans like: "Fight war, not wars". Demonstrators picketed the National Westminster tower and other financial institutions. Police harassed anyone who wasn't wearing city clothes. HPP must be in danger of becoming respectable, for when one copper grabbed me he

believed it when I told him I was on my way to the office, let me go and apologised! Ron and other cyclists held a cyclecade during the morning at which two cyclists were pounced upon by the police.

Ron described the police as panicky—on several occasions they lost control and provoked violence. Outside the Bank of England at 9.30am a large and noisy crowd had gathered. A theatrical orange smoke bomb trailed across the road and landed outside the Bank. A heroic young police woman stepped into the viewfinder of an Evening Standard photographer and hurled the missile back towards the crowd. It flew about 20 feet in a flat trajectory and hit a copper standing on the other side of the road. So much for media celebrities.

Defendants' meeting

A Stop the City Defendants meeting has been set up for Saturday 14 April at: 32 Alexander Road, N8. (creche provided). If you were arrested while stopping the city, or have photographs or video tape of the day which might be used for evidence, you are encouraged to attend. The following day another meeting will discuss the action, and consider future possibilities.



Market Nursery threatened:

Child care on the chopping block

In line with the government policy of cut and be damned (or praised by their lackeys in Fleet Street) the Market Nursery is in danger of closure. It seems that the under-fives must tighten their belts alongside the millions of unemployed.

The Market Nursery is funded via the Partnerships scheme, with 75% of the finance coming from the Department of the Environment and the remainder from Hackney Council's Social Services Department. This money was initially promised up until 1985 but in December last year the nursery was informed by the DOE that it was cutting its contribution by 50% at the end of March and phasing it out entirely in the next financial year.

The nursery was set up over eight years ago by parents in the community, as there was a lack of nurseries in the area. Since then it has developed a policy of both racial and gender equality for the children who go there. Its obvious popularity is shown by the ever-increasing waiting list. The DOE clearly does not share this view since the cut will return the community to the situation it faced before



the nursery was set up: not enough nursery places in an area crying out for them.

Meanwhile, staff, parents and children at the nursery continue their spirited lobbying for sufficient funds. They hope that Hackney's Social Services Dept will be able to make a greater financial commitment but the Council is itself faced with a savage reduction of money from central government. However the nursery is still hoping that Hackney will be able to increase its funding for at least the coming year.

The situation of the nursery is yet another consequence of central policy: the effect of the government's figure-juggling is to threaten children with being thrown out of their nursery, causing further deprivation in an area that already suffers enough.

We hope that the nursery is successful in its campaign to survive despite the background of a centralist government which is not only arbitrarily deciding what can be 'afforded' but also trying to destroy what a community's needs are.

Peace mural for Dalston Lane

A peace mural and a garden will soon be taking shape at 13-15 Dalston Lane, E8, with the help of funds provided by the GLC. One of only six of its kind in London, the mural is the brainchild of the London Muralists for Peace Group. The garden idea came from Hackney's planning Department.

After some initial work to prepare the surface of the wall, the painting proper should begin about mid-May. Ray Walker, a local artist with nearly ten years' experience in mural painting, is currently completing the design. Based on peace movement photographs of a Hackney street carnival, it has already seen the light of day as an oil painting, exhibited at the Town Hall as part of the Hackney Arts and Crafts Show.

"There are plenty of willing hands to help with painting," said Ray. He has already had several enquiries, and would particularly welcome offers from skilled painters who would like to try their hands at a mural.

Local people will get a chance to contribute suggestions for the garden project, as meetings will be held for representatives of community groups to say what they'd like to see on the site. Ideas so far include seating, a notice board and a raised area for performances and meetings.

The mural and the garden are designed to form a permanent reminder of the GLC's peace year. Anyone wishing to help with the site can contact Ray on 254 8892.

Peter's perks

Citizens in Britain's poorest borough may be interested to hear that Peter Kahn, Deputy Leader of the Council, is not one of the borough's poorer citizens. His claim for expenses from the Council for the period July '82 to October '83 came to no less than £7,658. The claim was for such things as travelling, subsistence, attendance allowance and a staggering £3,000 for conferences. What kind of conferences can these be? Also included is the figure of £2,400 for 'special responsibilities'.

When asked about these figures, Cllr Kahn explained that all this fuss could be avoided if councillors were paid regular salaries. He didn't mention a figure, but no doubt it would be higher than his annual expenses. HPP's muck-rakers are on the prowl, so watch out for further exposés in future issues.



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BOOK REVIEWS

"Where There's Smoke: Poems & Stories" by Hackney Writers' Workshop.
Published by Centerprise.
£1.95

Hackney Writers' Workshop was started in 1976 as a W.E.A. class. It has since developed into an autonomous self-governing group who aim to write from direct experience and with a social conscience. "It is four years since the last anthology from this workshop and it has been well worth the wait", runs the blurb. H'm..

My feeling is that while there are a few items from the seventeen writers represented which justify inclusion there are a lot more which do not. The lack of editorial control, in the orthodox sense, hasn't been fruitful. It is apparent in the many instances where ill-fated attempts at form predominate over meaningful communication.

Those whose work(s) are exceptions to this picture stand out. The extract from Roger Mills' novel "Drivers" makes one look forward to reading the complete book. Amongst the poets, Maggie Hewitt's pieces are both well constructed and highly intelligible:
"This was the crux of it
Her care and my lack of it
I never hoped to win
Now there are crumbs in the
cutlery drawer
She must be getting old."



"A Hackney Memory Chest" by George C. Cook.
Published by Centerprise.
£2.-.

This is a very evocative account of T.B. treatment experienced over 40 years ago. Interlaced with these particular reminiscences is the lively background story of the author's early years and upbringing in Homerton.

George Cook has a very vivid memory and the manner in which he describes people and events is very involving. You are made very aware of the tragedy and personal loss caused by tuberculosis and the circumstances of those it affected. It was only by chance that the author survived. Anyone at all interested in life in Hackney before the last war and life in the face of affliction should read this very human tale.

pub of the month

This month the HPP pub of the month team paid a visit to the Tiger, (245 Wick Road, E9), a lively Young's house at the social crossroads of Hackney Wick.

The pub was busy on a Friday night, with a mixed, but mainly young clientele. The bar staff were under pressure but efficient and well-served pints of Young's ordinary and special bitters arrived promptly. The Tiger is spacious with red fittings, velvet flock wallpaper and a tobacco-smoke tinted red and cream ceiling.

On the wall hung a Chinese tiger illustration, printed on strips of bamboo. HPP's photographer also spotted a tasteful photograph of the Pub's hoarding at sunset in a frame above the cash register.

The Tiger is a very conversational pub. As the lights dimmed at closing time we noticed a sociable hub-bub continuing in the dark.

Over the years the Tiger seems to have become more trendy - a few years ago it was more a workingman's pub but now many in the bar seem to be students.

One explanation for the Tiger's popularity could be given by the three carry-out restaurants across the road from it. There has to be something good to say about a pub where you can stumble out at 11 o'clock and take your choice of food from an Indian curry house, a fish bar or a Chinese take-away.

The Tiger is a 20 minute walk from central Hackney, but well worth the trip. It is a good pub in which to celebrate the arrival of longer spring evenings.

• Also worth trying in Hackney Wick is the White Lion pub at 331 Wick Road, E9. London Drinker magazine describes it as a good-quality 3-bar pub with unusual pre-war decor.



CLAPTON PASSAGE:
BUILDERS OUTSIDE THE NEWLY COMPLETED HOUSES IN 1883.

Photos of Hackney in Victorian days, some well over a hundred years ago, have been reproduced as postcards by Hackney Council.

Hackney people at work and play is the theme of the first set. Marie Lloyd, the Shoreditch - born music hall star, appears in one: others feature inmates of the old Homerton workhouse, a group of builders with newly-completed houses in Clapton passage, and a view inside England's first dry-cleaning factory in Hackney Wick.

Pubs are the subject for the second set. The Old Swan at Clapton. Common and the Shoreditch Station - once at the corner of Old Street and Kingsland Road - join a view of Broadway market and an old horse cab waiting in Amhurst Road in 1866.

The cards, in a sepia tone, cost 70p a set and can be bought from the Archives Dept, Rose Lipman Library, Downham Road. Other libraries will stock them soon.

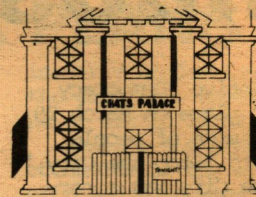


HACKNEY WORKHOUSE: 'H' BLOCK, THE WOMEN'S WARD IN 1902.

THEATRE NEWS

IT'S MY PARTY...

Playing soon at your local theatre/bus stop/just about anywhere is the latest show from Inner City Theatre, "It's My Party (and I'll cry if I want to)". This probably would win any Oscar award for about the most pathetic plot around, but is more than redeemed by the zappy and enthusiastic way the cast belt out any number of early sixties smasheroonies. It's loosely based around the seminal (who's been reading the NME?!) Lesley Gore number of the same title - cries of appreciative applause from the audience when they realise why two of the characters are called Judy and Johnnie - and is the vehicle for other goodies of the same period. Memo to Inner City - what about a sequel using this hack's fave from the grave, Band of Gold? Plenty more great songs and you might get a sharper script if you worked harder at it!



CHAT'S FESTIVAL

SHAME!... WE'RE GONNA LIVE FOR EVER is the title of four days of dance, music, drama and exhibitions put on at Chats Palace for a special youth festival. It features Chats own youth drama group, girls dance and girls drama groups, the bands Cut and Thrust and Black Shades from Pyramid Arts, Asian youth group World Industry, the Birmingham-based Jubilee Girls, Rare Earth dancers, Chats band Emphasis a Saturday afternoon youth fair and a Saturday party night. The festival runs from Wed 25th to Sat 28th April. See Chats advertisement for details.

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TUESDAY 10th	JACK PINE QUINTET <small>'Swing to Bebop'</small>	£1.00
TUESDAY 17th	COWAN STREET <small>'Jazz Quintet'</small>	£1.00
TUESDAY 24th	JACK PINE QUINTET	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 4th	REACTORS	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 11th	★ HI-JINX (unwaged) £1.00 <small>Seven-Piece All Women Afro-Caribbean High Life</small>	£1.50
WEDNESDAY 18th	REACTORS	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 25th	★ JO-ANN KELLY BAND (unwaged) £1.00 <small>featuring GERAINT WATKINS - Piano, TEX COMER - Bass, MICKY WALLER - Drums, PETE EMERY - Guitar.</small>	£1.50
THURSDAY 5th	THE BORDELLOS <small>'formerly RED BEANS and RICE'</small>	£1.50
THURSDAY 12th	EXOCETTS <small>'Soul & Motown'</small>	£1.00
THURSDAY 19th	★ HANK WANGFORD	£2.50
THURSDAY 26th	EXOCETTS	£1.00
FRIDAY 6th/13th/20th	JUICE ON THE LOOSE	£2.00
FRIDAY 27th	★ CHEVALIER BROTHERS ★	£2.50
SATURDAYS	BIG CHIEF <small>'featuring: 7th - DAVE CHAMBERS. 14th/21st - ART THEMEN'</small>	£1.50
SUNDAY 1st	★ IVORY COASTERS	£1.50
SUNDAY 8th	★ JULIAN BAHULA'S JAZZ AFRIKA	£2.00
SUNDAY 15th	★ THE GUEST STARS	£1.50
SUNDAY 22nd	★ RUBY TURNER BAND	£2.00
SUNDAY 29th	★ THE GUEST STARS	£1.50

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Gerry Raffles Square, E15
534 0310

Breakneck Ruth Ellis dyed her hair blond, became a nightclub queen, had laughs, booze, sex, then pumped six bullets into her 'lover'. The last woman to be hanged in Britain in 1955.

From 10 April at 8.00.
Tickets £1-£5.

Variety night Sunday, 29 April at 8.00. Hosted by Kate Williams.
Tickets £2-£5.

THE LIVE 32 BOROUGH TOURING SHOW

at the Wally Foster Community Centre, Homerton Road on Friday 27 April, 7.30pm

With New Variety. Tickets £2, concessions £1.

THEATRE VENTURE

Tom Allen Centre, Grove Crescent Road, E15.
555 7289

Taking liberties - a play from London's history, the mock elections held at Garratt Green whenever a genuine election was held, to choose a 'mayor'. A carnival combining drama, dance, song and music. Until 14 April, Weds - Sats at 7.45pm. Tickets £2.50, concessions £1.

Meetings

Writing and politics

A talk by Ngugi Wa Thiong'o (author of many novels and essays) at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8 on Tuesday, 17 April at 7.30pm. Organised by the Friends of Blair Peach Committee and the Hackney Workers' Educational Association.

HACKNEY ONE PARENT ACTION GROUP

The group will be holding its annual general meeting on Sunday, 15 April at 2.30pm at the family centre at 128 Hoxton St. N1.

The centre is about to become fully operational with 10 places for 2½-5 year olds and activities for the single parent. Non-racist and non-sexist. Come along and hear more. Ring 739 4656 for more info.

POLICE BILL

Newham and Hackney Campaign against the Police Bill has a meeting on Wednesday 25 April at 7.30pm at East Ham Town Hall. Speakers from National Union of Miners, Indian Workers' Association, Roach Family Support Committee and Dan Jones of Tower Hamlets Trades Council.

Courses

COURSES AT HACKNEY COLLEGE

Special 21-hour a week courses for the unemployed (and anyone else) so as not to lose your benefit. Hackney College run a whole range of courses - basic woodworking, electrical skills, computing, and programming, micro-electronics, book-keeping, BTEC general cert and adult foundation courses.

Generally run in the middle of the day for 10 weeks to a year. Different parts of the College all over Hackney.

Community skills Open day on Wednesday, 11 April for anyone interested in community skills courses. At Chelmer Ho, Chelmer Road, Homerton, E9. Also run preparation course of one year for those who want to become teachers.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY WORK

For those already involved in community work, and thinking of taking it up full-time. Apply by 23 April to Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1. One day a week for ten weeks.

ONGOING WOMEN'S THERAPY GROUP

Using painting to express our feelings both individually and collectively. A look at how existing social values have defined our creativity and how we have internalised them.

£6 per session. Contact 254 2493.

WOMEN IN ENTERTAINMENT

The group is running a series of workshops for women's and girls' groups in community settings. The workshops are designed to challenge stereotypes and offer positive images of women.

WIE want to find out what local women's groups are interested. Contact Saffron Myers, 7 Thorpe Close, W10.-969 2292

WOMEN'S COURSES

Next term at the Chequer Centre of the Central Institute of Adult Education, Chequer St, ECL, three courses on aspects of women are being held:

Women as artists: lives of some women painters and hearing about contemporary artists. Wednesdays at 6.30-8.30pm, starting 2 May.

Women's studio: working on body images to build up a strong image of women. Thursdays, 10-1pm from 3 May

Renaissance images of women: as madonna, classic and portraist, compared with the present day. Mondays, 6.30 to 8.00pm. or Tuesdays 12-2pm, starting 4 or 5 June.

Contact 388 6048.

Other events

SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

A recently-formed organisation plans to draw together voluntary bodies acting for the elderly. It will look at existing services and identify gaps and build a coherent overall policy for voluntary care for the aged.

It plans to launch a new organisation later this year. Contact Robyn Green at 137 Stoke Newington High St, on 249 4543.

ON DUTY

A video drama/documentary on black workers in the NHS. Shot in a London

hospital last year, it highlights the struggles and strengths of the black ancillary workers in hospitals which are now facing short staffing and closure. Based on the life of a black ward orderly and shop steward.

On duty will be shown on Channel 4's Eleventh Hour series on 16 April. It can also be bought as a cassette for £25 (voluntary organisations) and £30 (statutory organisations). Contact Ms Cyrus or Yvonne on 340 5340.

Centerprise

EASTER WITH CENTERPRISE

Centerprise is running free holiday activities for all young people. Each day from 11am-4pm.

Video Help to make a video movie on 24-25 April.

Photography Take your own pics and print them. 17 April for girls, 26 April mixed.

Exhibition and party Showing all the things we did over the holidays flowed by a party - music and sounds by Triangle. 27 April.

Kite making and flying on 19 and 24 April.

Music, drama and dance with Triangle music workshop. 25 April girls only. Mixed on 18 and 27 April.

COPY DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE HPP MAY FREE WHAT'S ON LISTINGS IS SAT 28 APRIL. DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES: PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS.

ADVERTISEMENT

CHATS PALACE

HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

April Calendar

Important: As Chats Palace has a club licence all users of the building must be members or their guests.

Thur 8pm	5 Chats Palace Club Annual General Meeting. All members welcome.
Fri 8pm	6 *Irish Night. Benefit for E.L.T.O.M. with Oriel, Irish Dancers. £2.50/£1.50 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	7 Vaudeville in The Hackney Empire Style with Pat & Dave, Dickie Downes, Tim Goodwin and surprise guest appearance. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	8 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with The Rae James Quintet. 50p. Children free.
Wed 8.30pm	11 Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro plus guest performers. Free.
Thur 8pm	12 *Tropic Music Enterprise present an evening of African Music. £2.50/£1.50 unwaged.
Fri 8pm	13 "The Invisible Woman" by Spare Tyre Theatre Company.
Sat 8pm	14 £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	15 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with Jazz Standards. 50p. Children free.
Wed 8.30pm	18 Pub Night in the bar with Tony Locantro plus guest performers. Free.
Thur 7.30pm	19 *Pyramid Arts present an Easter Special £2/£1 unwaged.
Fri 8pm	20 A Good Friday with Sam Cooke. An evening of sixties soul. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	21 Jitterbug, Jump and Jive with the best swing band this side of the track, Rent Party. £2.50/£1 unwaged.
Sun noon	22 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with Steve Mulligan Quartet. 50p. Children free.
Shame (we're gonna live for ever). Chats Palace Youth Festival. 75p Youth/£1.50 adults.	
Wed 7.30pm	25 Chats Youth Drama, Dance, Girls Drama, Music Groups plus Rare Earth - dancers.
Thur	26 Chats Youth Groups plus Black Shades (reggae band) and Cut & Thrust (rhythm & blues).
Fri 7.30pm	27 Chats Youth Groups plus Jubilee Girls from Birmingham and The World Industry Collective an Asian Youth Group from Barnsbury.
Sat 2-4pm	28 What's On for Youth, stalls, sideshows, steel bands.
7.30pm	Shame ... Party Night. with Emphasis and sounds.
Sun	29 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with Chris Hill's Jazz Babies. 50p. Children free.

*Indicates outside hirer.

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107 Kingsland High St, E8
Tel: 254 6677

THE RIO CINEMA
APRIL

PRICES: £2.00 ADULT;
£1.00 UNEMPLOYED ON PRODUCTION OF URBAN
UNWAGED ON PRODUCTION OF ORDER BOOK
SENIOR CITIZENS UNDER 15'S

FEATURES (FRIDAYS TO WEDNESDAYS)	THURSDAYS + MATINEES
<p>VASSA</p> <p>FRI 30 SAT 31 SUN 1</p> <p>8.00</p> <p>A THE GREAT TRILOGY dir. Mark Donsky FRIDAY at 8.00 THE WILLOW OF BARK COURT (USA 1936 10mins) SATURDAY 8.00 BY APPOINTMENT (USA 1951 10-15) SUNDAY 8.00 BY APPOINTMENT (USA 1951 10-15)</p>	<p>SEASON OF SOVIET FILMS + SPECIAL EVENTS</p> <p>THURSDAY 5 (MATINEE)</p> <p>KINOPRAVDA (dir. Deiga Vertov 1924 USSR 2.00 15mins)</p> <p>BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN (dir. S. Eisenstein 1925 (PG) USSR 70mins) 2.15</p> <p>ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE</p> <p>THURSDAY 5 (EVENING)</p> <p>COALMINERS DAUGHTER (dir. Michael Apted 6.30 (15) 1980 USA 12mins)</p> <p>DATE OF HEAVEN (dir. Terence Malick 1980 8.45 (15) USA 94mins) with Richard Gere</p>
<p>STREAMERS</p> <p>FRI 6 SAT 7 SUN 8 MON 9 TUE 10 WED 11</p> <p>A FILM BY ROBERT ALTMAN</p> <p>Unprecedented Acclaim! 6 Golden Lion Awards for Best Acting to the Entire Principal Cast - Venice Film Festival 1983</p> <p>6.70 / 8.45 / 11mins</p>	<p>SUNDAY 8 (MATINEE)</p> <p>THREE SONGS ON LEVIN (dir. Deiga Vertov 2.30 (15) USSR 1934 5mins) Vertov's only</p> <p>THE TRAIN ROLLS ON (dir. Chris Marker Fr 3.30 (15) 1963 30mins)</p> <p>HAPPINESS (dir. A. NEUVEQUIN USSR 1934 7mins 4.10)</p> <p>THURSDAY 12 (MATINEE)</p> <p>KAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA (dir. Deiga Vertov 2.00 (15) USSR 1928 9mins)</p> <p>ALL TICKETS HALF PRICE</p> <p>THURSDAY 12 (EVENING)</p> <p>BENEFIT FOR THE BARBUDAE FAMILY CAMPAIGN VOL. (dir. Vilmae Guey Switz/Turkey 1982 7.30 (15) 11mins)</p>
<p>WALT DISNEY'S Lady and the Tramp</p> <p>FRI 13 SAT 14 SUN 15 MON 16 TUE 17 WED 18</p> <p>N.B. No performances on THURSDAY 19</p> <p>FRI 20 SAT 21 SUN 22 MON 23 TUE 24 WED 25</p>	<p>THURSDAY 19 (MATINEE)</p> <p>SPECIAL SHOW FOR HACKNEY PLAYSCHEMES THE VIE (dir. Sydney Lumet USA 1976) 2.00 (15) with Michael Jackson & Diana Ross Price 25p under 15's & £1 adults</p> <p>THURSDAY 19 (EVENING)</p> <p>REPULSION (dir. Roman Polanski UK 1965 7.00 (18) 104mins) with Catherine Deneuve</p> <p>LIQUID SKY (dir. Slava Tsukerman USA 1983 9.00 (18) 109 mins)</p> <p>THURSDAY 26 (MATINEE)</p> <p>SPECIAL SHOW FOR HACKNEY PLAYSCHEMES DARK CRYSTAL (UK 1983 92 mins) 2.00 PRICE 25p under 15's & £1 adults</p> <p>THURSDAY 26 (EVENING)</p> <p>WOMEN ONLY SCREENING</p> <p>CARRY GREENHAM HOME (dir. Benha Elidenon 7.00 (15) 84mins Richardon UK 1983 66mins)</p> <p>HOME IN FLAMES (dir. Leslie Borden 1983 8.20 (18) USA 104mins)</p> <p>SEE OVER FOR DETAILS</p>
<p>COMING SOON SILKWOOD</p> <p>CAN SHE BAKE A CHERRY PIE BORN IN FLAMES VERTIGO</p> <p>BARRY BLISS'S FORDS ON WATER</p>	

HPP IS 100

With this issue we celebrate another milestone in the distinguished progress of Hackney's best-loved paper - our hundredth issue. This issue, however, does not coincide with any other notable event, unlike our 25th issue, in June 1977, which occurred at the same time as the royal silver jubilee.

LEARN NEW SKILLS!

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the practical side of producing a journal? HPP is holding an open workshop to explore the basic principles of design. On Saturday April 28th, local professionals will join us at Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8, to share their experience. The workshop starts at 2.30 p.m. and will include practical work on next month's issue.

28-April

VICKIE LUKENS & ANDREW HAIG
on DESIGN.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on Wednesday 11th April.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for twelve issue subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS. Please add a donation if you can afford it!

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Looking back at the 25th, 50th and 75th issues however, apart from the leap into glorious, glowing red and black colour, we wonder when we read some of the stories what has changed.

In November 1979 - the 50 issue - the lead story was of a fight to save St. Leonards from closure. This closure, part of the savage cuts of the time, was prevented but the respite, was we are only too aware, was temporary.

In the 75th issue, in Dec 1981, the pressures of the Tory government were even more harshly in evidence. Pensioners were protesting about the rising cost of fuel and the impossibility of keeping warm, while ILEA was campaigning against Heseltine's Local Government Finance Bill.

More encouraging was the winning back by the tenants of Frampton Park estate of the use of their hall, let without their knowledge or consent by the GLC to the British Legion.

Hospital closure: minister evasive

Decisions on the future of St Leonard's hospital have been delayed once more. The Minister for Health, Kenneth Clarke, has refused even to receive a petition asking for the hospital to be kept open until the Regional Health Authority has had its say.

The local health body, the District Health Authority, at its last meeting agreed to a proposal to keep a limited number of services



running at the hospital. These include chiropody, radiography, physio and some of the clinics. The RHA has yet to discuss and agree the plan. Until it does, at a meeting arranged for 2 May, Kenneth Clarke does not want to be involved.

The petition is for the hospital to be kept fully operational, in particular that it should keep all its desperately needed beds for the elderly. The Community Health Council remains convinced that such services are essential for local people and, with Hackney Health Emergency, will continue to campaign energetically to keep the hospital open.

BIG BROTHER BILL

The "Big Brother" Bill - that's how the Local Government Campaign Unit sees the Government's new Rates Bill. The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Ripon has described rate-capping as a "classic example of elective dictatorship". So what are the proposals which sent nearly 60,000 Londoners onto the streets on "Democracy Day"?

Central government gives a grant to local councils every year. This is added to the money that councils collect from their rates, and pays for local services. Because the Thatcher government has slashed grants to inner city areas like Hackney, councils have had to increase rates. And if councils spend more than the government likes, their grant is cut even further.

So high rate rises are the consequence of central government policy. Since the government don't provide a big enough grant for needy areas like Hackney, residents of Britain's poorest borough, badly off as it is, have to fork out even more for essential services like housing and education.

If the Rates Bill becomes law, jobs will be lost in Hackney and services will be slashed even further. The mandarins of Whitehall, not local councils, will be deciding how much money Hackney can collect in rates. If councillors try to raise enough money to pay for local services, they will be fined or sent to prison. Civil servants, who were not elected and are not accountable to local people, could enforce a school closure or impose cuts in a borough's fire service.

Essentially, the government aims to stifle any opposition as it becomes increasingly more intolerant of dissent. Even the Conservative chairman of Bucks County Council has seen the Rates Bill as 'a further step towards central authoritarian power'.

Yet the Rates Bill is only one prong of an all-out government attack on local democracy. Under the proposals to remove London Transport from the GLC and



London Transport bus workers at Stamford Hill garage ready to put their message across to any fellow-workers who turned up on their strike day, 28 March (see story on page 1)

Photograph: Carlos Augusto Guartia

hand it over to a board under the control of the Secretary of State, Londoners would be doubly hit. GLC policies for LT have gained popular support. Despite the Law Lords ruling, LT succeeded in reducing fares, contrary to government wishes. The government now intends to bring LT to heel, with cuts in jobs and services certain to result.

With the government plans to abolish the GLC it has recently been announced that the elections scheduled for May 1985 will not now take place. This removes power from local people to use the ballot box to say what they want locally, and shows that the government has no qualms in sweeping away directly elected representatives in

pursuit of its own ends.

It is no coincidence that the present GLC is a left-wing Labour administration, and, as such, is a constant affront to the government's attempts to run down public services.

If the legislation goes through, London will be the only capital in Europe without city-wide government.

Already in 1984, we have seen workers prevented from joining a trades union, a national police operation restricting people's movement around the country, a savage jail sentence imposed on mole Sarah Tisdall, grants taken from anti-establishment theatre groups, and local elections swept away.

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